

Hobbs, NM – On Friday, September 10, Harry Teague will host a ceremony honoring Los Lunas resident Michael J. Malarsie as the latest “Veteran of the Month.” Senior Airman Malarsie was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operation Squadron in Fort Riley, Kansas where he was trained as a tactical air control airman and later deployed to Afghanistan. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>

, Malarsie was crossing a bridge with 12 fellow soldiers near the southern village of Ashoque in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated. He suffered neck and head injuries, ultimately losing his sight. Malarsie spent time recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where Harry Teague first met him.

“Michael Malarsie’s selfless service and sacrifice to protect and defend the American people is incredibly humbling,” said Harry Teague, a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. “Visiting Mr. Malarsie at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center served as a clear reminder of the hardships soldiers endure after they leave the battlefield and how our veterans deserve the best care possible on their road to recovery. It is my honor to recognize this brave soldier for his devoted service to our country.”

Malarsie received the Purple Heart as well as the Airforce Combat Action Medal for his service. When Mr. Malarsie returned home to continue his recovery, he was greeted by a large crowd at the airport and took the opportunity to propose to his wife, who he met during his recovery.

Harry Teague will honor Mr. Malarsie with a presentation on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Los Lunas. Teague will present Malarsie with a flag flown over the capitol, Teague’s personal Challenge Coin and a certificate recognizing this honor.

All interested media are invited to attend.

Congressman Teague’s “Veteran of the Month” program is designed to promote veterans issues and is coordinated by his Veterans Advisory Council, comprised of distinguished veterans from across southern New Mexico. Each month, a veteran will be recognized for their service overseas and here at home. To nominate a veteran for the “Veteran of the Month Program” please contact Major Nathan Howard at [Nathan.howard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nathan.howard@mail.house.gov) .

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>:**

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**WHAT:** Veteran of the Month Ceremony recognizing Michael Malarsie

**WHERE:** Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9676, 1201 Hwy 314, Los Lunas

**WHEN:** Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

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